Summary

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In an hydraulic actuator (26) a movement of an actuating element (58) of the actuator (26) is effected in that a working chamber (60) of the actuator (26), with the aid of a valve device (72), is able to be connected to, and disconnected from, a fluid reservoir (80) in which pressurized hydraulic fluid is stored. The lift of the actuating element (58) of the actuator (26) is a function of a fluid volume present in the working chamber (60). It is provided that, to ascertain an instantaneous operating performance of the actuator (26), the working chamber (60) is briefly connected to the fluid reservoir (80), the corresponding pressure drop in the fluid reservoir (80) is recorded, and the corresponding lift is determined from the pressure drop with the aid of known geometrical variables of the actuator (26).

(Figure 4)